



## Civilian Marksmanship Program

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# After Action Report

To: Commander, Army JROTC  
Director, Navy JROTC  
Director, Marine Corps JROTC

From: Gary Anderson, Director, CMP

CC: CMP Board of Directors  
COL Robert Hoidahl, Commander, USAMU  
National Three-Position Air Rifle Council

Date: 12 May 2003

Re: **1<sup>st</sup> JROTC NATIONAL AIR RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP**

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In May 2002, the Army, Navy and Marine Corps JROTC Commands authorized the establishment of a JROTC National Air Rifle Championship and asked the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) to cooperate with them in administering the program. Two phases of qualifying competitions were organized during the months of December 2002 through February 2003. The 1<sup>st</sup> JROTC National Air Rifle Championship was held at Fort Benning, Georgia on 27-29 March 2003. This report on the qualifying competitions and championship is submitted to the JROTC Commands together with recommendations to be considered in deciding the future of the program. Comments, conclusions and recommendations in this report represent a compilation of evaluations and comments from CMP staff who administered the postal competitions and organized the championship as well as the comments and recommendations received from volunteer competition officials and the coaches of participating teams.

### 1. PROGRAM HISTORY.

- 1.1. **The Dream.** Many JROTC Command leaders, JROTC instructors who were active in marksmanship and marksmanship leaders in other youth-serving organizations desired, for many years, to establish a national championship program for JROTC rifle marksmanship participants. The JROTC National Drill Team competition that is held annually in Daytona Beach, Florida, served as an inspiration and model for this dream.
- 1.2. **The Decision.** The CMP was invited to present a proposal for a JROTC air rifle championship at the JROTC Command Inter-Service meeting that took place on 5 May 2002, during the 2002 National Drill Team competition. The CMP reported that organizing qualifying competitions and a national championship was feasible and that the CMP Board had agreed to budget funds and provide staff support to help carry out the program. JROTC Command representatives approved the concept of a JROTC national air rifle competition and requested that CMP organize the qualifying and final competitions in the championship.



### 1.3. Planning Decisions.

- 1.3.1. Initial Planning. During the months of May and June 2002, discussions between CMP and JROTC Command staff regarding the development of a detailed plan for qualifying competitions and a national championship were held. Numerous issues were identified and resolved, including how and when qualifying competitions would be held and where the final championship would be organized.
- 1.3.2. First Phase Qualifying. Navy CNET had an established annual SecNav NJROTC Postal competition that is administered by CNET and scored by CMP. Marine Corps JROTC also had an established postal that is now scored by CMP. It was decided that those postals would be used as first phase qualifying competitions for Navy and Marine Corps JROTC units. It was determined through discussions with Army Cadet Command staff that a new Army JROTC postal competition should be established to serve as a first phase qualifying competition for the Army.
- 1.3.3. Second Phase Qualifying. The Navy decided to organize a Navy JROTC shoulder-to-shoulder championship to qualify Navy JROTC units for the national championship. CNET invited the top teams from the SecNav Postal and selected regional competitions. Having another postal competition, this time with designated witnesses, was determined to be the most feasible means of conducting second phase qualifying for Army and Marine Corps JROTC units.
- 1.3.4. National Championship Site. Contacts with the Commander, U. S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Georgia, determined that the national championship could be conducted at USAMU facilities.
- 1.3.5. Final Planning Decisions. Representatives of the JROTC Commands and CMP met at Camp Perry, Ohio on 12Oct02, during the National Youth Shooting Sports Leadership Conference, to make final planning decisions that allowed championship organization and promotional announcements to proceed.

## 2. FIRST PHASE POSTAL QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS.

- 2.1. **Course of Fire.** Each participating cadet in the first phase postals fired a 30-shot, three-position course of fire (3x10). Navy regulations called for naming four-person unit teams in advance, but permitted units to enter as many teams as they wished. Army and Marine Corps regulations allowed units to fire as many cadets as they wished, with the top four scores counting as the team total. Individual participation in this competition phase was required in order for cadets to fire as team members in subsequent competition phases.
- 2.2. **Dates.** To accomplish qualifying for the national championship, it was determined that first phase postal qualifying would be conducted during the period 15Dec02-15Jan03, except that the deadline for Marine Corps postal firing was 5Jan03.
- 2.3. **Navy JROTC.** The Navy SecNav postal was administered by CNET and scored by CMP. 832 sporter teams, 3,348 sporter individuals, 64 precision teams and 256 precision individuals participated. Participation in the SecNav postal was up substantially over previous years. The CNET and the Navy JROTC program should be commended for achieving such high participation.
- 2.4. **Marine Corps JROTC.** Announcements for the Marine Corps JROTC postal competition were distributed by TECOM and targets were scored by CMP. 22 sporter teams, 131 sporter individuals, 13 precision teams and 60 precision individuals participated.



- 2.5. **Army JROTC.** A completely new Army JROTC postal competition was established. CMP prepared the official program and program documentation. Announcements from Army Cadet Command were released in Nov03. Participating Army JROTC units ordered targets with postal target seals from CMP. 183 sporter teams, 1338 sporter individuals, 57 precision teams and 296 precision individuals participated.
  - 2.6. **Target Scoring.** Targets for all three postals were scored by CMP during the week of 20-25Jan03. Targets were to be postmarked not later than the deadlines for postal target firing (5Jan03/USMC and 15Jan03/Navy & Army) and targets had to be received at CMP HQ NLT 31Jan03 in order to be scored. Almost all targets were received in time to be scored during the 20-25Jan03 period. Some confusion was created by the 31Jan03 receipt date, which some units understood to mean that they could fire after the firing deadline as long as targets were received by 31Jan03. Because this was not made clear, those targets were accepted and scored. All fired targets were received by the 31Jan03 final deadline. Target scorers provided by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center and several volunteers scored all targets. All results were posted on the CMP web site prior to the 31Jan03 date for posting final results. No scoring challenges were received by CMP. This was a massive undertaking and over 15,000 targets were scored during this period, but the two-week period established for scoring and posting results and resolving any score challenges is sufficient time to accomplish all of these tasks.
  - 2.7. **Overall Participation.** A total of 1,171 JROTC unit teams and over 5,400 individual cadets participated in the three postal competitions. This is almost certainly the highest total number of teams and individuals ever to participate in a unified youth shooting competition in the United States. Recognizing that this was the first year of the Army JROTC postal and that increased participation in both the Army and Marine Corps postals is easily attainable, achieving a significant increase in participation numbers in the 2003-2004 school year should be a key objective.
3. **SECOND PHASE QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS.**
    - 3.1. **Course of Fire.** Each participating cadet in the second phase competitions fired a 60 shot, three-position course of fire (3x20). All participating units had to name the members of their teams in advance.
    - 3.2. **Dates.** To identify teams that qualified for the national championship and to give them sufficient time to make travel arrangements and prepare for the competition, all second phase qualifying was done during the period 10-22 February 2003. This was sufficient time to accomplish this phase of qualifying.
    - 3.3. **Navy JROTC Championship.** The NJROTC SecNav Air Rifle National Championship was organized by CNET at the Naval Support Activity Mid-South, Millington, Tennessee on 22Feb03. Volunteers, CMP staff and Memphis State University Rifle Team members provided match administration and scoring support. Teams that participated in this championship were invited on the basis of SecNav postal scores and Navy JROTC area qualifying competitions. 19 sporter teams and 11 precision teams participated. The top three sporter and top three precision unit teams qualified to represent the Navy in the national championship.
    - 3.4. **Marine Corps JROTC.** The top 10 sporter and top 10 precision unit teams in the Marine Corps postal were invited to participate in a Qualifying Round postal, with witnesses designated by CMP. Firing took place during the 10-21Feb03 period. The top three sporter and top three precision unit teams qualified to represent the Marine Corps in the national championship.



- 3.5. **Army JROTC.** The top 20 sporter and top 20 precision unit teams in the Army postal were invited to participate in a Qualifying Round postal, with witnesses designated by CMP. Firing took place during the 10-21Feb03 period. The top three sporter and top three precision unit teams qualified to represent the Army in the national championship.
- 3.6. **Target Scoring.** Targets for the Army and Marine Corps Qualifying Round Postals were scored during the week of 24-28Feb03. Targets were to be postmarked NLT 21Feb03 and received NLT 28Feb03. Two sets of targets from Germany were accepted after that date because the shipment of postal targets to an overseas location was not properly expedited at CMP headquarters. The delayed targets were received on 3Mar03 and scored that same day so that all scores were posted by the established 3Mar03 final results deadline. Prior to notifying qualifying teams, all target scoring was reevaluated by a jury that included the DCM. Some minor score corrections were noted, but no team placings were changed. Teams that qualified for the national championship were officially notified on that date. The one-week period established for receiving, scoring and posting results and resolving challenges was adequate.
- 3.7. **Postal Witnesses.** The CMP appointed witnesses for both the Marine Corps and Army Qualifying Round postals. To the extent possible, CMP State Junior Directors or experienced target competitors were used, but in some cases school officials were asked to act as witnesses. A detailed checklist for the witnesses to use to verify full compliance with the rules was provided. There was no evidence of any irregularities and we are satisfied that the selection of Marine and Army teams for the national competition was fair and credible. All teams selected through this system performed up to their qualifying standards at the national championship.

#### 4. JROTC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

- 4.1. **Location.** The championship was held at the USAMU Pool Complex Indoor Range at Fort Benning, Georgia. The range offered 36 firing points equipped with electronic targets and electronic scoreboards. In accordance with the CMP-USAMU MOU for the championship, logistical support for the championship was provided by CMP, not the Army. Mike Behnke, USAMU Operations Director, provided outstanding overall USAMU and facility coordination. The USAMU range was an ideal site for the championship. The use of electronic targets was judged to be particularly advantageous as it eliminated target scoring costs and delays and facilitated an outstanding spectator experience.
- 4.2. **Competition Organization.** CMP provided the competition director (Gary Anderson) and competition staff from CMP staff and volunteers. Key staff included Duane Tallman, Chief Range Officer; Sheri Judd, Administration and Protocol; Bob Foth, Jury Chairman and Christie Sewell, Results.
- 4.3. **Accommodations.** VIPs, staff and participants were accommodated in the Sheraton Four Points Airport Hotel in Columbus, GA. Room cost was \$67/room with two breakfasts provided. CMP provided teams with a subsidy of \$25/room. Staff and participating coaches expressed overall satisfaction with hotel and food service arrangements.
- 4.4. **Travel.** All participating teams were asked to make their own travel arrangements. No teams experienced any difficulties in making travel arrangements to and from Columbus, GA. CMP provided a travel assistance payment that varied from \$200 to \$3000 depending upon distance and mode of travel required (the subsidy was significantly increased when air travel was required). Some teams also received travel support from other sources. Teams expressed general satisfaction with the amount of travel assistance that was available and no qualified teams were unable to participate because they could not afford to travel.



- 4.5. **Impact of National Emergency.** Two teams that originally qualified for the championship, Elizabeth (NJ) HS MCJROTC and Asheville (NC) HS MCJROTC, were unable to travel due to restrictions established by their school boards in response to the war in Iraq. The next highest-ranking teams, La Cueva (NM) HS MCJROTC and North HS (IA) MCJROTC, were able to travel and made arrangements to be at Fort Benning on very short notice. Fort Benning authorities accommodated the entrance of participants onto their base with no difficulties.
- 4.6. **Logo, Awards, Recognition.** A special logo was created for the championship and used in official correspondence, awards and other media. CMP provided all awards including individual medals, team member medals and team trophies. All participants were given caps with the championship logo. Participants expressed general satisfaction with the awards and awards distribution.
- 4.7. **VIPs/JROTC Command Presence.** The championship benefited from visits by many VIPs and JROTC Command representatives. They included Mr. J. B. Hudson, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army; BG Gratton Sealock, Deputy Commanding General, U. S. Army Cadet Command; COL Carlos Glover, Army JROTC Director, Mr. Paul Duffey, Marine Corps JROTC Director, Mr. Leon McMullen, Army JROTC; Ms. Teresa Casey, Navy JROTC. CMP Board members who attended all or part of the championship were Charles Maddox, Chairman; Judy Legerski, Vice Chair; Ms. Carolyn Hines; Mr. Mahlon Love and Lt. Gen. John Crosby (Ret.). USAMU officials, including the unit commander, COL Robert Hoidahl, and shooters also attended many competition activities. The attendance by these distinguished visitors during the championship was very much appreciated by the participating teams and competition staff. Their presence and support contributed significantly to the competition's success.
- 4.8. **Opening Ceremony.** A short, 30 minute opening ceremony was staged on Ceremony Hill behind the Pool Range Complex on 27 March. Participating teams were introduced; COL Robert Hoidahl, USAMU Commander, welcomed participants to Fort Benning and USAMU facilities and Mr. J. B. Hudson, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, spoke on behalf of the Army to officially open the championship. Mr. Hudson urged that this competition become an annual event for JROTC cadets and their marksmanship program.
- 4.9. **Conduct of Competition.**
  - 4.9.1. **Schedule.** The competition was conducted over a three-day period where day one included check-in, equipment control, training, the opening ceremony and a pizza dinner; day two included a 3x20 course of fire for teams and individuals, a 3x10 alternates match and an individual final and day three included a second 3x20 course of fire for teams and individuals, a second 3x10 alternates match, a second individual final and the closing banquet and awards presentation. The three-day schedule worked well, provided for a credible determination of awards winners and should be continued.
  - 4.9.2. **Courses of Fire.** Determining individual champions with the 2x3x20 plus finals average course of fire provided for a high quality individual championship and was well-received by participants. Determining team champions with a 2x4x60 course of fire also provided for the selection of credible team champions and was well-received by participants. Using two individual finals was a new approach, but it was well received. The finals provided an excellent spectator event and the top shooters enjoyed the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of a large group of spectators that included many VIPs.
  - 4.9.3. **Competition Officials.** The conduct and quality of the competition was greatly enhanced by having a highly experienced and well-qualified staff of competition officials.



The presence of the Wolf Creek Olympic Shooting Center near Atlanta has created a situation where the best shooting competition officials in the country are now in Georgia. Conducting the championship at Fort Benning made it possible to take advantage of this.

4.9.4. **Results.** During the competition, scores were taken from electronic target scoreboards, entered in a results program that was loaded on the CMP server (via telephone connections) and verified with target printer score tapes after the competition. There were no results challenges during the competition. There was only one target malfunction that was resolved by the competition jury that decided to allow one competitor an opportunity to re-fire 20 shots due to erroneous results provided by the target during the original firing of that series by that competitor. Posting all results on the CMP server made it possible to simultaneously post competition results on the CMP web site as soon as the scores were posted on the shooters' individual electronic scoreboards. The official scoreboard for the competition was actually a computer projection of this web page on a large screen set up just outside of the range. This made it possible for real-time results to also be viewed by teachers, classmates and family members back home. Some participating schools reported that during the competition on Friday, their teachers and classmates were checking the results between classes at school. This is the first time a shooting results process utilizing internet/web site posting has been accomplished in the U. S. A complete final results bulletin was printed immediately after the championship and distributed to all participants at the conclusion of the awards banquet. Utilizing a results system that facilitated simultaneous score posting on the Internet worked very well, was highly acclaimed by participating teams and should definitely be continued in future championships.

4.10. **Qualifying System.** The 2003 championship provided for three sporter and three precision teams representing each service to advance to the national championship. The consensus conclusion was that an even split between sporter and precision and allowing each service to qualify six teams was a good approach and should be used again. Teams were allowed to bring one alternate, but only 11 of the 18 teams brought alternates. Most cited additional travel cost as an inhibiting factor, although several were pleased with the opportunity for their alternates to fire in a special competition. Significant concerns were expressed over the fact that the 2003 qualifying system provided only for the top teams to qualify while making it impossible for the top individuals who were not on competing teams to participate.

4.11. **Awards Banquet and Ceremony.** The championship concluded with an awards banquet at the Columbus Iron Works Visitor and Convention Center. Guest speakers were BG Sealock and MAJ Mike Anti, USAMU, who is an international champion shooter. Awards were then presented by attending VIPs to individual and team winners.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

### 5.1. First Phase Qualifying.

5.1.1. That Army, Navy and Marine Corps JROTC postal competitions continue to be used as first phase qualifying so that all JROTC units can have the possibility of participating in the first phase of this competition.

5.1.2. That announcements of first phase postal competitions be made as soon as possible to give participating units more lead-time (NLT Sep03).

5.1.3. That first phase postal competitions continue to be done with a 3x10 course of fire.



- 5.1.4. That a fundamental operating concept for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps first phase postals be participation by all units with marksmanship programs and cadets who have received marksmanship training.
  - 5.1.5. That increased command emphasis be placed on encouraging all Army, Navy (already doing an excellent job in this regard) and Marine Corps JROTC units with rifle marksmanship programs to participate in these postal competitions and that all participating units be encouraged to have all cadets who have completed a basic marksmanship course of instruction participate.
  - 5.1.6. That all participating units and cadets receive some form of recognition, such as a certificate of participation, which recognizes their participation in the JROTC air rifle competition program. CMP can provide computer-generated certificates in conjunction with postal target scoring operations.
  - 5.1.7. That to facilitate program promotion a uniform postal firing period be adopted by all services.
  - 5.1.8. That the time allowed for postal target firing begin 30 days sooner, to extend from 15Nov03 to 15Jan04.
  - 5.1.9. That the Marine Corps postal adopt a postal program similar to that used by the Navy and Army where units submit entries (Army entries are submitted to CMP, Navy entries are submitted to area commanders) and that targets with postal match seals be provided in advance for all firing.
  - 5.1.10. That the firing deadline and final date for sending (postmark) targets be the same date and that targets fired after that date and before the final results posting date not be scored.
- 5.2. Second Phase Qualifying.**
- 5.2.1. That a one-month period for team notification, target shipment, team firing, scoring and final results posting again be used if postal competitions are used for second phase qualifying or that if shoulder-to-shoulder competitions are used, that the competitions be in this same period.
  - 5.2.2. That second phase qualifying continue to be done with a 3x20 course of fire.
  - 5.2.3. That second phase qualifying provide for individual at-large qualifying that would select the highest scoring individuals from each service who are not members of teams that qualify for the championship.
- 5.3. National Championship.**
- 5.3.1. That each service be permitted to qualify a specified number of at-large individuals to be determined by range capacity at the championship so that all of the top individual firers will be afforded an opportunity to win individual awards in the championship.
  - 5.3.2. That teams not be permitted to bring alternates and that the alternates match be eliminated in order to provide additional range space to accommodate at-large individual qualifiers.
  - 5.3.3. That Fort Benning/USAMU is seriously considered as the site for the 2004 national championship. The availability of electronic targets greatly facilitates the conduct of a



quality championship. In the alternative, electronic targets could also be available at Wolf Creek/Atlanta if it is reopened.

- 5.3.4. That a similar three-day championship schedule be used (training/competition/competition & awards), except that squadding should provide for one sporter relay (will permit coaching), one precision relay and one combined at-large individual relay.
- 5.3.5. That the continued provision of travel and accommodations assistance is necessary to the success of the championship. It is not, however, necessary to provide 100% of the costs associated with participating.
- 5.3.6. That serious consideration be given to scheduling the competition days on Monday/Tuesday (arrival on Saturday, training on Sunday) so that all schools can have the opportunity to follow team results via computers in the school.
- 5.3.7. That attendance by family members, VIPs and other visitors continue to be encouraged and accommodated. Having spectators during the competitions adds an important dimension to the competition.
- 5.3.8. That a short, formal opening ceremony to officially open the competition continues to be held.
- 5.3.9. That a formal banquet with participants in military dress uniforms continues to be used to close the competition and present awards.